

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

As is permitted by 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii), amendments to the claims are shown by an equivalent marking system. Insertions are still shown by underline, and deletions are shown by strikethrough.

1. (Amended) An aqueous coating material ~~preparable~~comprising a product formed by mixing with one another

(A1) at least one substantially water-free base color that imparts at least one of color- and/or effect-~~imparting base color~~ comprising

(a11) at least one binder, wherein the binder is optionally water-soluble or water-dispersible binder,

(a12) at least one pigment that provides at least one of color and/or effect pigment, and

(a13) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible, ~~organic solvent~~

~~and also, if desired, comprising~~optionally, at least one of

(a14) at least one crosslinking agent, ~~and/or~~

(a15) at least one auxiliary, ~~and/or~~

(a16) at least one additive ~~(coatings additive)~~;

(A2) at least one aqueous color-imparting base color comprising

(a21) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder,

(a22) at least one color pigment, and

(a23) water,

~~and also, if desired, comprising~~optionally, at least one of

(a24) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible ~~organic solvent~~,

(a25) at least one crosslinking agent, ~~and/or~~

(a26) at least one auxiliary, ~~and/or~~

(a27) at least one additive ~~(coatings additive)~~;

and

(B) at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish comprising

(b1) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder, and

(b2) water,

and also, if desired, comprising optionally, at least one of

(b3) at least one crosslinking agent, and/or

(b4) at least one auxiliary, and/or

(b5) at least one additive (coatings additive);

and also, if desired, comprising optionally

(C) a pigment-free aqueous medium comprising

(c1) at least one rheology control additive;

optionally, with the proviso that at least one of the coatings-additives (a156), (a267),

and/or (b45) may also further comprise at least one rheology control additive (c1).

2. (Amended) A modular system for preparing aqueous coating materials, at least comprising

(I) at least one substantially water-free module that provides at least one of color and/or effect module comprising

(A1) at least one base color that substantially imparts at least one of color- and/or effect-impacting base color comprising

(a11) at least one binder, wherein the binder is optionally water-soluble or water-dispersible binder,

(a12) at least one pigment that imparts at least one of color and and/or [sic] effect pigment, and

(a13) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible, organic solvent

and also, if desired, comprising optionally, at least one of

(a14) at least one crosslinking agent, and/or

(a15) at least one auxiliary, and/or

(a16) at least one additive (coatings additive);

(II) at least one aqueous color module comprising

(A2) at least one aqueous color-impacting base color comprising

(a21) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder,

(a22) at least one color pigment, and

(a23) water,

and also, if desired, comprising optionally, at least one of

- (a24) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is
optionally water- miscible-~~organic solvent~~,
- (a25) at least one crosslinking agent, ~~and/or~~
- (a26) at least one auxiliary, ~~and/or~~
- (a27) at least one additive (coatings additive);

and

(III) at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module comprising

(B) at least one pigment-free mixing varnish comprising

(b1) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder, and

(b2) water,

and also, if desired, comprising optionally, at least one of

(b3) at least one crosslinking agent, ~~and/or~~

(b4) at least one auxiliary, ~~and/or~~

(b5) at least one additive (coatings additive);

and also, if desired, comprising optionally,

(IV) at least one pigment-free rheology module comprising

(C) an aqueous medium comprising

(c1) at least one rheology control additive;

optionally, with the proviso that at least one of the coatings-additives (a156), (a267),
and/or (b45) may also further comprise at least one rheology control additive (c1).

3. (Amended) A process for preparing an aqueous coating material with precisely defined shade and optical effect ~~by with [sic] comprising~~ mixing modules differing in material composition and function and stored separately from one another, shortly before the application of the coating material, ~~which comprises mixing with one another at least [sic] wherein the modules comprise~~

(I) at least one substantially water-free module that provides at least one of color
and/or effect module-comprising

(A1) at least one substantially water-free base color that imparts at least one
of color- and/or effect-impacting base color comprising

(a11) at least one binder, wherein the binder is optionally water-
soluble or water-dispersible binder,

(a12) at least one pigment that imparts at least one of color and/or effect-pigment, and

(a13) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water- miscible, organic solvent and also, if desired, comprising optionally, at least one of

(a14) at least one crosslinking agent, ~~and/or~~

(a15) at least one auxiliary, ~~and/or~~

(a16) at least one additive (coatings additive);

(II) at least one aqueous color module comprising

(A2) at least one aqueous color-imparting base color comprising

(a21) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder,

(a22) at least one color pigment, and

(a23) water,

and also, if desired, comprising optionally, at least one of

(a24) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water- miscible organic solvent,

(a25) at least one crosslinking agent, ~~and/or~~

(a26) at least one auxiliary, ~~and/or~~

(a27) at least one additive (coatings additive);

and

(III) at least one pigment-free mixing varnish module comprising

(B) at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish comprising

(b1) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder, and

(b2) water,

and also, if desired, comprising optionally, at least one of

(b3) at least one crosslinking agent, ~~and/or~~

(b4) at least one auxiliary, ~~and/or~~

(b5) at least one additive (coatings additive);

and also, if desired, comprising optionally

(IV) at least one pigment-free rheology module comprising

(C) an aqueous medium comprising

(c1) at least one rheology control additive;

optionally, with the proviso that at least one of the coatings-additives (a156), (a267), and/or (b45) may also further comprise at least one rheology control additive (c1).

4. (Amended) The aqueous coating material ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, ~~the modular system as claimed in claim 2 or the process as claimed in claim 3~~, wherein the base color (A1) imparts one of imparts-i) effect or ~~both-ii)~~ color and effect.
5. (Amended) The modular system ~~as claimed in~~ claim 2 ~~or 4 or the process as claimed in claim 3 or 4~~, wherein the modular system comprises one of
1. at least one substantially water-free color module (I), at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III), ~~or~~
 2. at least one substantially water-free color and effect module (I), at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III), ~~or and~~
 3. at least one substantially water-free effect module (I), at least one substantially water-free color module (I), at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III).
6. (Amended) The coating material ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~or 4~~, ~~the modular system as claimed in any of claims 2, 4 and 5, or the process as claimed in any of claims 3 to 5~~, wherein ~~at least one aqueous, pigment free mixing varnish (B)~~ the additive (b5) comprises at least one rheology control additive ~~as coatings additive (b4)~~.
7. (Amended) The coating material ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~or 4~~, further comprising the pigment-free, aqueous medium (C), and wherein the rheology control additive (c1) ~~being present~~ is provided only in ~~said~~ the pigment-free, aqueous medium (C).
8. (Amended) The modular system ~~as claimed in any of claims 2, 4 and 5 or process as claimed in any of claims 3 to 5~~, wherein the modular system further comprises the at least one pigment-free rheology module (IV).

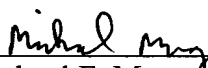
9. (Amended) The aqueous coating material ~~as claimed in any of claims 1, 4, 6 and 7, the modular system as claimed in any of claims 2, 4 to 6 and 8, or the process as claimed in with [sic] any of claims 3 to 6 and 8,~~ wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) come from the same polymer class.
10. (Amended) The aqueous coating material, ~~the modular system or the process as claimed in~~ of claim 9, wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) are polyurethane resins.
11. (Amended) The aqueous coating material ~~as claimed in any of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10, the modular system as claimed in any of claims 2, 4 to 6 and 8 to 10, or the process as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6 and 8 to 10,~~ wherein the binders (a21) and (b1), and also, ~~if desired,~~ optionally the binder (a11), comprise
- (ii) ~~functional groups which~~ that can be converted into anions by at least one of neutralizing agents, and/or anionic groups, ~~especially carboxylic acid and/or carboxylate groups.~~
12. (Amended) ~~The use of~~ A method comprising applying the aqueous coating material ~~as claimed in any of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10, of the modular system as claimed in any of claims 2, 4 to 6 and 8 to 10, or of the process as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6 and 8 to 10 in~~ to a substrate to provide one of an automotive OEM finishing, an automotive refinish, and thea plastic coating of plastics, but especially automotive refinish.
13. (Amended) ~~The use of~~ A method comprising applying the aqueous coating material ~~as claimed in any of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10, of the modular system as claimed in any of claims 2, 4 to 6 and 8 to 10, or of the process as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6 and 8 to 10 for preparing~~ to a substrate as a basecoat, and applying to the basecoat the aqueous coating material of claim 1 as a solid-color topcoats and basecoats, but especially basecoats, for to provide one of an automotive OEM finishing, an automotive refinish, and thea plastic coating of plastics, but especially automotive refinish.

14. (Amended) ~~An automotive OEM coating or automotive refinish, or else a coating on a plastic, producible from~~ A coating comprising a coating process product of the aqueous coating materials as set forth in any of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 and/or using the modular system as claimed in any of claims 2, 4 to 6 and 8 to 10 and/or using the process as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6 and 8 to 10.
15. (Amended) ~~An automotive OEM coating or automotive refinish, or else a coating on a plastic, as claimed in~~ The coating of claim 14, wherein the coating comprises a multicoat color and/or effect coating system, s producible in particular wherein the multicoat coating system is formed by the a wet-on-wet technique, and wherein the multicoat coating system is at least one of a color coating system and an effect coating system.
16. (Amended) ~~An article, especially an automobile body or plastics component, having an automotive OEM finish or automotive refinish and/or a coating on a plastic, as claimed in claim~~ comprising the coating of claim 14 or 15.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 1-41 are pending in the application. Claims 1-16 have been amended in accordance with the requirements of U.S. patent practice. New claims 17-41 add no new matter, as these claims contain subject matter deleted from the amended claims. There are three (3) independent claims and a total of forty-one (41) claims pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the preliminary amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,



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